

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink containing:
an aqueous medium; and
at least one dye in which a ratio of a total atomic weight
5 of hetero elements contained in a dye molecule to a dye molecular
weight is from 40 to 90%.

2. The ink according to claim 1, wherein the dye is a
compound represented by the following formula (1):

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wherein A and B each independently represent an optionally
substituted heterocyclic group; L represents a hydrogen atom,
15 a chemical bond or a divalent linking group; and n is 1 or 2,
provided that in a case where n is 1, L represents a hydrogen
atom and A and B each independently represent a monovalent
heterocyclic group; in a case where n is 2, L is a chemical
bond or a divalent linking group and one of A and B is a monovalent
20 heterocyclic group while the other is a divalent heterocyclic
group; and in the case where n is 2, A's may be either the same
or different and B's may be either the same or different.

3. The ink according to claim 1, wherein the ratio is
25 50% or more.

4. An ink set containing at least one of the ink according to claim 1.

5 5. An ink set containing at least two of the ink according to claim 1.

6. An ink set containing at least three of the ink according to claim 1.

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7. An ink set wherein each of inks constituting the ink set is the ink according to claim 1.

8. An ink set comprising inks each containing at least
15 one dye and an aqueous medium, wherein inks contained in the ink set include cyan, light cyan, magenta, light magenta and yellow inks, and at least three of the cyan, light cyan, magenta, light magenta and yellow inks contain each at least one dye having two or more heterocyclic groups in a fundamental dye
20 skeleton participating in a color development.

9. An ink set comprising inks each containing at least one dye and an aqueous medium, wherein all of inks contained in the ink set contain each at least one dye having two or more
25 heterocyclic groups in a fundamental dye skeleton

participating in a color development.

10. The ink set according to claim 8, which the dye having two or more heterocyclic groups is an azo dye.

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11. The ink set according to claim 9, which the dye having two or more heterocyclic groups is an azo dye.

12. The ink set according to claim 8, wherein the dye
10 having two or more heterocyclic groups is a metal chelate dye.

13. The ink set according to claim 9, wherein the dye having two or more heterocyclic groups is a metal chelate dye.

15 14. The ink set according to claim 10, wherein heterocyclic groups are bonded to each other via an azo bond in the azo dye.

20 15. The ink set according to claim 11, wherein heterocyclic groups are bonded to each other via an azo bond in the azo dye.

16. The ink set according to claims 12, wherein the metal chelate dye is a phthalocyanine dye.

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17. The ink set according to claims 13, wherein the metal chelate dye is a phthalocyanine dye.

18. The ink set according to claim 8, wherein the ink
5 containing a dye having heterocyclic groups is the ink according to claim 1.

19. The ink set according to claim 9, wherein the ink
10 containing a dye having heterocyclic groups is the ink according to claim 1.

20. The ink set according to claim 4, further containing a black ink, wherein a dye concentration of the black ink is highest.

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21. The ink set according to claim 4, wherein further containing a black ink, in which the black ink includes an ink comprising a dye and another ink comprising a pigment dispersion.

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